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## **PROTECTING THE PHYSICIAN PATIENT RELATIONSHIP PROTECTS WOMEN A CASE STUDY**

A patient came to the office because of irregular menstrual cycles. Because she had difficulty conceiving, she never imagined that she could be pregnant so soon. When the pregnancy was confirmed, she and her husband were overjoyed. However, their joy soon turned to despair when an ultrasound done at 13 weeks suggested the unborn baby had a fatal condition.

After multiple consultations with specialists and numerous ultrasounds, the diagnosis was certain. The couple had to choose between carrying a baby to full term who would never survive outside the womb or end the pregnancy sooner. Mrs. S and her husband felt she would be taking too many risks with her health to carry the pregnancy. Therefore, she and her husband requested information about early pregnancy termination.

If Mrs. S had carried the pregnancy longer, she would have jeopardized her health because of complications with management of several pre-existing conditions. Also, the unborn baby had excess amniotic fluid which caused the uterus to rapidly grow. If she had continued the pregnancy, she would have become very short of breath affecting her ability to carry on her daily activities. Other complications such as increased bleeding at delivery due to over distension of the uterus due to excess amniotic fluid could also occur.

Because Mrs. S had the opportunity to complete the pregnancy sooner, she protected her health and future fertility.

Making a law that restricts doctors from providing necessary medical care is criminal; not the procedure which can save a woman's life.